

Message Text

SECRET

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41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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O 041250Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6761

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 11958

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST AMOCO OPERATION IN THE GULF OF
SUEZ

REF (A) CAIRO 11947 (B) CAIRO 11949 (C) TEL AVIV 6097

1. HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH GAMASY A FEW MINUTES
AGO (1400 LOCAL) TO ASK HIS UNDERSTANDING OF AMOCO RIG
SITUATION IN GULF. GAMASY, IT APPEARS, HAS BEEN GETTING
HIS INFORMATION MAINLY FROM MIPET HILAL, WHO HAS IN
TURN BEEN GETTING IT FROM AMOCO.

2. GAMASY CLAIMED IT IS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT
ISRAELIS WILL NOT ATTACK RIG, BUT ARE DETERMINED TO
MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR RIG TO WORK ON 304.1 SITE.
THEY CAN DO THIS BY CUTTING LINES, SETTING OFF
EXPLOSIONS TO FRIGTHEN THE AMERICANS ABOARD RIG AND
BY OTHER HARASSING TACTICS. AS HE UNDERSTANDS IT,
IN RESPONSE TO ISRAELI ORDERS, RIG LEFT AREA. ITS
FOREMAN REFUSED REPEATED INSTRUCTIONS FROM EGYPTIAN
NAVAL VESSEL SKIPPER TO RETURN.

3. GAMASY FURTHER UNDERSTANDS THAT, AS OF NOW AND
WITH RIG OUT OF THE AREA, ALL OF THE ISRAELI NAVAL
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VESSELS HAVE ALSO LEFT THE AREA. SHOULD RIG RETURN,

ISRAELI GUNBOATS WILL AGAIN SHOW UP TO HARASS. ONLY ONE EGYPTIAN NAVAL VESSEL IS STILL ON STATION. ALTHOUGH RIG HAD REPORTED FOUR EXPLOSIONS OR ARTILLERY ROUNDS, GAMASY SAYS EGYPTIAN SHIPS HAVE REPORTED THAT ISRAELIS HAVE NOT FIRED AT THEM. EGYPTIANS HAVE ALSO NOT RPT NOT FIRED ANY ROUNDS. GAMASY SEEMED QUITE SURE ON THIS POINT. NOR DID EGYPTIAN NAVAL SKIPPER HEAR EXPLOSIONS.

4. IN HIS LAST TALK WITH HILAL A FEW MINUTES AGO, HILAL HAD INSISTED THAT MATTER MUST BE LEFT TO ROSS CRAIG, MANAGER OF AMOCO. CRAIG SHOULD DECIDE WHETHER THE RIG SHOULD RETURN OR STAY OUT OF THE AREA. GAMASY DID NOT OBJECT TO THESE INSTRUCTIONS. HILAL HAD ALSO ASKED THAT THE REMAINING EGYPTIAN GUNBOAT BE ORDERED OUT OF THE AREA. GAMASY IS AT THIS MOMENT SENDING INSTRUCTIONS TO THAT EFFECT.

5. GAMASY TOOK THE MATTER VERY CALMLY. HE DID INDICATE THIS DISTASTE FOR ISRAELI ACTIONS AND SAID HE IS THINKING OF "MAKING TROUBLE" FOR ISRAELI OIL OPERATIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY NEAR AT-TOR. I GAINED IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS TALKING MORE JOCULARLY THAN SERIOUSLY.
EILTS

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